5th February 1934]

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I would like to know whether, by the closure of these arrack and foreign liquor shops, the revenue is the same as it was before this measure was adopted? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" They were not closed this year, but they were closed some years ago."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I want to know whether the present revenue is about the same as it was before the closure of the shops? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" Before the closure five or six years ago."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" I want to know whether there is any fall; if so, whether it is due to the closure of these shops, and whether toddy sales have increased? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur S. Kumaraswami Reddiyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Local Self-Government

Complaints against presidents of local boards regarding the irregular disposal of tenders.

* 609 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiyappa Gounder : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many complaints have been received since 1st January 1933 against presidents of local boards who have discarded the definite instructions issued by the Government in the matter of disposal of tenders for the works of those boards, and how they have been disposed of;

(*b*) from whom such complaints were received;

(*c*) whether there is any proposal to modify the rules in the Local Boards Manual in respect of disposal of tenders for the works of the local boards; and

(*d*) if so, what they are?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Complaints have been received from some contractors that presidents of district boards are not rigidly adhering to the rules; several presidents of district boards have however represented that the existing rules cannot be conveniently followed in certain cases, especially of small tenders.

(*c*) & (*d*) The question of revising the rules for the invitation and acceptance of tenders is under the consideration of Government.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" What is the nature of the majority of the complaints received from the contractors? "

The hon. the Raja of Bobbili :—" In all cases the lowest tender has not been accepted."